

saw, what they have lost, what their parents and teachers are going through, and what the world means, while we all struggle to do the same and try to regain our sense of safety.

I am not saying that mental illness is widespread or an inevitable consequence of the event. But after hearing from the experts at this hearing, we should not underestimate the severe impact of September 11 on people's sense of identity and safety and how the multiple losses and horrific experiences they went through have the potential to affect them for a long while.

Let me talk a minute about posttraumatic stress syndrome which can have such lasting effects on the minds and hearts of those who suffer from it. Here I draw from some experience because a lot of my work, especially back in Minnesota, is with Vietnam vets who are struggling with PTSD. We know from research that the brain chemistry can be altered by such experiences, and we know that the day-to-day struggle to deal with the frightening flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, loss of sleep and many other symptoms can lead to severe problems and an inability to function if left untreated.

I will never forget a letter from a 10-year-old girl in Pope County, MN, who told me that her daddy was a Vietnam vet. He went into the shower in the morning. He had been doing fine. This was many years later, about 4 years ago. She said: My dad came out of the shower and he couldn't talk to anybody. Please help my dad. That was PTSD from the Vietnam war.

Treatment can help people with PTSD, depression, anxiety, and a lot of other illnesses. What we want to do with this amendment is provide States \$175 million in flexible ways to deal with the needs of the citizens. We want to have training programs for licensed mental health professionals. We want to have expedited and increased research funding right away so we know what to do. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to set up a disaster research clearinghouse so that information can quickly be made available to schools and public health agencies during times of crisis.

Funding is authorized for \$50 million for trauma treatment centers for adults and children to provide services for people who are exposed to such traumas.

All of this will make a huge difference. This came up last week. I thank Senator KENNEDY for his leadership. There are a lot of us who are involved in this effort. Senator WARNER is one. I cannot emphasize enough to other Senators how important it is that we try to pass this package.

Today, we were scheduled to bring up the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act. This is legislation on which I have been working with Senator DOMENICI. More important than that, there are 63 or 64 Senators who support it.

One or two Senators objected. I am disappointed to say the least. We could have had this legislation on the floor. We could have had debate and some amendments, and it would have passed.

The legislation did two things: It ended all discrimination in coverage. It is civil rights legislation. It just says no longer can any health care plan treat someone who is struggling with this kind of mental illness differently than someone who is struggling with any other kind of illness.

My God, this is 2001. It is long overdue.

The second thing I want to say—I will not try to put one agenda on top of another, but I want colleagues to know that the second thing that happens from this legislation—which is why it is so important—is that the treatment follows the money. When plans now provide coverage, you then see an infrastructure in our country which doesn't exist now as it should to provide the care for people. Kay Jamison, who has done brilliant work and writing in this area, said, "The gap between what we know and what we do is lethal."

There is September 11, and there are all kinds of people trying to deal with this trauma. There are all kinds of other men, women, and children who don't get the care they need. This is a piece of legislation that has some urgency. There is no reason to delay any longer. One or two Senators objected.

I hope this will be on the floor soon, and I hope we can pass it. I think the President will sign it. I think it is a bipartisan effort and it is a good thing to do and it is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

BENEFITS FOR DISLOCATED AIRLINE WORKERS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I commend my friend and colleague, Senator CARNAHAN, for her efforts on behalf of dislocated workers in the airline industry. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation which will benefit thousands of workers who have or will lose their job because of the tragic events on September 11.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator CARNAHAN and her staff for working with me to clarify that employees of maintenance suppliers to commercial air carriers are covered under the language in the bill. This was an important point for me because of the impact the September 11 attacks has already had on aviation maintenance businesses in my State.

Reebaire Aircraft, Inc. located in Mena, AR, is just one example of why the dislocated worker assistance provided for in this bill is so important. Prior to September 11, Reebaire Aircraft had a thriving business with 101 workers and was in the process of expanding its workforce. Today, Reebaire employs only 15 workers and the owner has informed me that Reebaire may have to cease operations by the end of

October. Reebaire's fate is directly related to the terrorist attacks because eighty percent of its business was based on maintenance contracts with commercial air carriers who have cancelled future work orders with Reebaire indefinitely.

Again, I commend my colleague for her efforts on behalf of our Nation's working families.

Mrs. CARNAHAN. I appreciate the support of my friend from Arkansas and I am honored to add her name as a cosponsor of my legislation. As I explained to the Senator earlier, it is certainly my intent to cover dislocated employees of companies that contract directly with commercial air carriers for maintenance and related services if the employees lose their job because of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1438, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1438) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1750

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1750.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] proposes an amendment numbered 1750.

Mr. DODD. I ask unanimous consent further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To extend assistance for firefighters)

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1066. ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

Section 33(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

"(2) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.
 "(3) \$800,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.
 "(4) \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2004."

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, very briefly, this amendment deals with the FIRE Act, a bill which we adopted in a previous Congress, providing assistance to departments—paid departments, volunteer departments, and combination